

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

HB 44 – SB 113

March 21, 2017

SUMMARY OF ORIGINAL BILL: Enacts the “Help Find the Missing Act” (the Act) to establish procedures throughout law enforcement agencies and medical examiners/coroners to assist in identifying missing persons.

CORRECTED FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (005580): Deletes and rewrites the bill to involve regional forensic centers (RFC), which must be accredited by the National Association of Medical Examiners, rather than coroners and medical examiners in collecting information and coordinating with the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation and local law enforcement agencies.

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

Unchanged from the corrected fiscal note.

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- The proposed legislation requires RFCs to promptly furnish the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI) and the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System within the United States Department of Justice with copies of fingerprints and other identifying data for all unidentified deceased persons inquired by the medical examiner/coroner.
- If fingerprints cannot be obtained from the body, then a dentist or dental student shall perform a dental exam, the results of which are to be forwarded to the TBI.
- TBI must compare the fingerprints or other descriptive data to information kept on file with the TBI to attempt to identify the deceased. TBI must maintain a file for each unidentified deceased person up to 10 years after the person is identified.
- The Department of Health, Office of the State Chief Medical Examiner, reports that no data exists on the number of unidentified deceased individuals.
- The TBI already compares fingerprints and dental records of missing individuals against existing records. The proposed legislation will not significantly impact the TBI.

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- The proposed legislation requires law enforcement agencies to request family members of the missing person for an authorization to release the missing person's dental records.
- It is assumed that state and local law enforcement agencies can obtain these releases within their existing resources.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Krista M. Lee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista M. Lee, Executive Director

/trm